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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #97 - POSTED 11/05/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, or (718) 353-2801. For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line at (805) 296-2407. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[847]

* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *
* *
* The following is a closed circuit advisory and NOT for *
* retransmission on amateur radio. According to Dr. Norm *
* Chalfin, K6PGX, Newsline is once again very broke. Simply *
* said, we need the assistance of every listener who *
* appreciates Newsline to help to keep it on the air. The *
* Newsline Support Fund is separate from the service itself *
* and exists for the purpose of channeling donations directly *
* to the those providing services to the Newsline *
* organization. *
* *
* The address for the Newsline Support Fund is Post Office *
* Box number 463, Pasadena, California 91102. As always, we *
* thank you for your support. *
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REPEATER FINED

A repeater owner has been fined five thousand dollars because the FCC says that his system was heard transmitting on a frequency in an aeronautical communications band. The case involves William A. Krause, WA2HDE of Ceder Grove, New Jersey. The FCC says that on August the 30th, its New York City Field Office received a complaint from the FAA about a signal on 243 Mhz that had appeared on receivers at two airports over the previous five days.

The FCC says that the next day it used its direction finding equipment to trace the signal to a ham radio repeater installed atop a building at 2 Penn Plaza in Manhattan, New York. Subsequent investigation by the FCC determined that the repeater was being operated by WA2HDE. The commission says that the repeater transmitter was either operating off of its coordinated frequency of 224.66 Mhz or that it had developed a high level spurious emission at 243 Mhz.

According to the commission, 243 MHz is designated as the international emergency and distress channel to be used by radio beacons in the Marine and Aeronautical Radio Service. 243 MHz is automatically monitored by a set of low earth orbiting satellites called Sarsat Cospas. These birds are routinely used in search and rescue operations and are maintained as a joint venture between the United States, Canada and Russia.

The FCC contends that during the time that Krause repeater transmitter was operating on 243 MHz it had the potential to block emergency radio communications over a very large geographic area. Because of this the FCC says it took the action to issue the five thousand dollar fine as a part of its continuing effort to preserve the integrity of this important aeronautical radio system that they say pilots depend on for safety while in flight. WA2HDE was given thirty days to file an appeal.

TV STATIONS FINED FOR KID ADS

The Federal Communications Commission has also notified four television stations they will be fined for exceeding limits on commercials aired during children's shows. A 1990 law forbids stations from broadcasting more than ten and one half minutes of commercial material an hour during children's programming on weekends, or more than twelve minutes per hour on weekdays.

According to the published news reports, the agency issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture against the licensee of KPLR-TV in St Louis and said it intends to impose a \$30,000 fine. KXRM-TV in Colorado Springs will be fined \$25,000, while the licensee for KTTM-TV in Huron, S.D. and KTTW-TV in Sioux Falls, S.D. will be fined \$27,500.

The license holders have the customary 30 days to respond to the violation notices but it may be hard for any of them to find an excuse for their actions. It seems that the stations themselves admitted to the violations when they supplied the FCC with the data required for license renewals.

SENATE & HOUSE SUPPORT GROWS

Ninety seven members of the United States House of Representatives and fifteen US Senators have now become co-sponsors of the Amateur Radio Service Joint Resolution which was introduced into both houses of congress last May. At its meeting last January, the ARRL's Board of Directors paved the way for the joint resolution with a resolution sponsored by New England Division Director Bill Burden, WB1BRE. Based on the Burden motion, the Board voted to instruct its Washington

representatives to seek formal recognition from the 103rd congress of the role played by the Amateur Radio Service. This, as a national resource in preparation of and relief from disasters and in helping to foster technical progress in electronics.

Representative Mike Kreidler of Washington State was an original co-sponsor of the House version of the resolution and he has some strong words of support for the Amateur Radio service. According to Kreidler, it is about time for Congress to recognize the achievements of our nations hams. He says that with the service approaching 600,000 licensed radio amateurs in the United States, he is certain that every member of the house has had similarly favorable experiences with the amateur community and will also support this resolution. So far, 97 of his fellow congressmen and women have followed his lead.

ARRL ELECTIONS

While there are elections taking place in several ARRL divisions this fall, none is more contested than the race for the seat of Director for the Southeastern Division. There, an incumbent with more than a decade in office has a lot of competition at the ballot box. Three amateurs are challenging incumbent Frank Butler, W4RH, of Florida.

Amateurs in the Southeastern Division have a choice: Go with a familiar name -- or choose change. Incumbent Frank Butler has held the office for 13 years. Butler sez he's always available to assist League members with problems. But others say it's time for a new face to lead the Division. Georgia resident David Shiplett, AC4MU, sez the League needs to get back in step with the amateur community. Shiplett is joined in the race by Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, currently ARRL's Section Manager for Northern Florida. Hubbard has heavy involvement in emergency communications. Also in the race is Florida resident Alan Page, KE4W0. Page sez he'll keep amateur radio moving in an upward direction. November 19th is the day all 4 candidates anxiously await -- that's when the ballots will be counted.

In addition to the Southeast, ARRL elections are being held in the Delta, Dakota, Midwest and Pacific Divisions as well. The Director's elected later this month will serve a 2-year term that starts January first of 1994.

SAREX - STS 58

STS-58, the latest in the series of Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiments called SAREX, was a tremendous success. The fourth

and final flight of 1993 racked up near-perfect contacts with 17 school groups ... many reporting full quieting contacts with the spacecraft from horizon to horizon. An outstanding one took place on October 21st, when the Lycee Gaston Febus school, in Pau, France, had a telebridge contact with the astronaut. Jean Marc Dumont, the French school coordinator, reports that over 10 thousand students in France listened to the conversation through a national repeater!

Hundreds of school children in the United States were thrilled by direct talks with the STS-58 astronauts and thousands more listened in.

The general ham population also had a great time. This was the longest shuttle mission to date ... 14 days ... and the crew dedicated much of their second week in orbit to general QSOs ... several hundred of them ... and packet, with well over 800 packet contacts reported at this time. During the flight, Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, radioed back ... "Thanks for all the great QSO's. KC5AXA ... Marty Fettman ... KC5CKM, Rick Searfoss, and I love them. We're doing human metabolic and cardiovascular experiments in the lab today."

The SAREX Working Group, in charge of the flight, said "This was a testament to the outstanding support and preparation by the astronauts on-orbit and the SAREX team on the ground and in Mission Control."

QSL information for STS-58 ... send cards to ARRL, STS-58 QSL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111. Allow six to 10 months for a reply.

SAREX 10TH ANNIVERSARY

This marks the 12th time SAREX, the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, has flown ... and it's the last SAREX mission for this year. Next up, in December, will be a shuttle flight dedicated entirely to the task of repairing the Hubble Telescope.

Next year, two SAREX flights are scheduled at this writing. STS-60, in January, with astronaut Charles Bolden and Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev ... and STS-59, in April, with Jay Apt and Linda Godwin.

If you would like to know more about the history of SAREX, there's a story in the November issue of QST magazine ... commemorating the tenth anniversary. That's right, Owen Garriott led the parade in November, 1983!

INDIA QUAKE

News stories are applauding the work of ham radio operators

relief efforts to the survivors of the recent earthquake in India. The press services have reported that twenty six ham radio operators have set up a network to help coordinate relief efforts to the 120,000 people that were left homeless by the September 30th trembler.

According to Sirama Suri VU2MY, in rural India telephones can be as much as 25 miles away. There he says, it has been Amateur Radio operators that have been the ones who have put together a communications network to aid these earthquake victims.

DXCC UPDATE

In DX, the ARRL's DXCC desk says that it has received 1330 applications for new awards and endorsements. That's a mega total of 95,212 individual QSL cards which make it the largest number of cards received in any single month since September of 1990.

BURUNDI

Famed DXer Baldur Drobnica, DJ6SI, is reportedly active as 9U5DX. He was heard on 24.892 MHz at 14:13 UTC, 14.025 MHz at 20:50 UTC and 18.081 MHz at 20:57 UTC. The length of his stay in Burundi is unknown. QSL direct to DJ6SI at his Callbook address.

THP LEAVES U.S. MARKET

The worsening international monetary condition has now directly affected Amateur Radio. This, with the announcement by Tokyo Hy-Power Labs Inc. that it will terminate export sales from Japan to the United States.

Tokyo Hy-Power manufactures a wide variety of ham radio related equipment including six meter transverters, 2 meter and 70 centimeter power amplifiers and the worlds only tri band hand held radio. A hand held that operates on both HF and VHF.

For the past several years Tokyo Hy-Power has been represented in the United States by Orion Business International of Fresno, California. According to a FAX from Loren Pleet of Orion, the President of Tokyo Hy-Power Labs cited the abnormally high Dollar to Yen exchange rate and the severely depressed economy of Japan as the major factors in reaching this decision. Pleet said that Orion Business International was shocked when it heard of the decision by Tokyo Hy-Power to abandon the United States market. He says that despite Orion's efforts to try and continue the flow of equipment from Tokyo Hy-Power Labs the decision made in Japan

appears to be irreversible.

Tokyo Hy-Power was never one of the heavyweights in the US marketing arena, but it is far from a tiny operation. In fact, its products were well known worldwide before they were ever seen by hams in the United States. Even though the United States is considered the strongest amateur equipment market in the world, the dollar to yen exchange rate is making it harder and harder for all Pacific Rim nations to turn a profit selling their goods to us.

That's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463 in Pasadena, California 91102.

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